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18 January 1961

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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## CONCLUSIONS OF SPECIAL USIB SUBCOMMITTEE ON BERLIN SITUATION

The USIB has taken note of the following conclusions 25X1 reached by its special committee on the Berlin situation for the period 20 December 1960 through 16 January 1961.

1. We are currently in an interim period during which the USSR is intent on reaching an assessment of the new US administration and the possibilities of negotiating with the West on major issues. Therefore, at least for the next few months --through April and possibly until midsummer--the USSR is unlikely to increase tensions over Berlin. However, should the Soviet leaders at any time during this period estimate that the West is uninterested in high-level negotiations with the USSR; they may increase the threat of unilateral action in an effort to expedite talks.

2. While long-range Soviet policy on the broad problems of East-West relations was the overriding factor in reaching a solution of the recent trade impasse between Bonn and Moscow and Bonn and Pankow, the vulnerability of the East German economy contributed significantly and gave Bonn important leverage in negotiating on the IZT issue. [redacted]

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DAILY BRIEF

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